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concession has been granted as an experimental measure. Generally this concession is granted only in areas where the people are accustomed to drinking neera and places where there is no likelihood of misuse."

Hiring of power-boring and drilling sets.

* 875 *Q.*—Sri M. P. SUBRAMANIAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of power-boring and drilling sets with the Government for hire;

(*b*) how many such sets are at present employed in Salem district; and

(*c*) whether any municipality or panchayat in the above district has applied for the boring sets to deepen the wells to ensure drinking water-supply?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" (*a*) Thirty-three Power Drills and 193 Hand Boring Sets.

" (*b*) One Power Drill and 4 Hand Boring Sets.

" (*c*) Yes."

Retrenchment in the Electricity department.

* 876 *Q.*—Sri B. LAKSHMINARASA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state how many of the employees of the Electricity Department have been removed from service on account of the sudden stoppage of work; of these how many have put in more than two years of service and why so many have been thrown out of work?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI:—" Three thousand three hundred and forty-one (3,341) employees of the Electricity Department have been discharged from service consequent on the slowing down or stoppage of work and of these 579 had put in more than two years' service. The retrenchment has been necessitated by the quantum of funds available for executing extension schemes."

Retrenchment of process-servers.

* 877 *Q.*—Sri G. RAMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the services of any process-servers were dispensed with, with the abolition of the work relating to suits under the Estates Land Act work in the office of Revenue Divisional Officers;

(*b*) if so, the number of process-servers so removed; and

(*c*) the number of such servers given employment afterwards?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (*a*) The process establishment employed for work under the Estates Land Act, 1908, were disbanded when the estates were taken over by the Government.